

Message Text

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61

ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /021 W

----- 004861

R 261558Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8562

INFO AMCONSUL IBADAN

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E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, EMIN, BEXP, BMEP, NI

SUBJ: INTEGRATED STEEL MILL

REF: STATE 065230

1. EMBASSY HAS BEEN REPORTING ON THIS NIGERIAN IRON AND STEEL PROJECT FOR YEARS. MOST RECENT MESSAGES ARE LAGOS 10703 (NOVEMBER 20), 11556 (DECEMBER 18), 01462 (FEBRUARY 14), 02199 (MARCH 7), 02200 (MARCH 7), AND 02728 (MARCH 21).

2. ARTHUR G. MCKEE IS PERHAPS THE BEST KNOWN U.S. DESIGN/ENGINEERING FIRM IN THE IRON AND STEEL INDUSTRY, AND WE REGRET THAT IT DID NOT RESPOND EARLIER TO EMBASSY'S FEBRUARY 14 REPORT THAT "TIME NOW RPT NOW RIPE FOR CONCENTRATED COMMERCIAL EFFORT BY SOURCES OF U.S. EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, INCLUDING LICENSORS OF DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESSES."

3. EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT ARTHUR MCKEE REPRESENTATIVES DID VISIT DEPARTMENT OF STATE FEBRUARY 27 TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF LICENSING THE EXXON FIOR DIRECT REDUCTION PROCESS IN NIGERIA.

4. NEITHER ISSAC ADEMOLA ADEDCY NOR SHEPILA TRADING COMPANY KNOWN TO EMBASSY, AND NEITHER LISTED IN DECEMBER 1972 ILE-IFE TELEPHONE DIRECTORY. NAME AND ADDRESS SUGGEST SMALL IMPORT/EXPORT AND MARKETING ORGANIZATION OF WHICH THERE MANY IN NIGERIA. ILE-IFE IS UP-COUNTRY MARKET AND UNIVERSITY TOWN (1963 POPULATION 130,000), AND IREDUMI STREET IS NEAR CENTER OF TOWN. PERSPICACITY

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OF THIS FIRM IN WRITING TO ARTHUR G. MCKEE IS COMMENDABLE, BUT

WE HAVE NO REASON BELIVE FIRM HAS BEEN DESIGNATED TO PUT
TOGETHER CONSTRUCTION CONSORTIUM. AMCONSUL IBADAN MIGHT HAVE
FURTHER INFORMATION, BUT EMBASSY ASSUMES NOT UNLESS CONSULATE
MAKES SEPARATE REPORT.

5. IF ARTHUR MCKEE INTERESTED, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS MCKEE
REPRESENTATIVE VISIT NIGERIA, MAKE DIRECT CONTACT WITH NIGERIAN
STEEL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NSDA), AND INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE
LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES. BUT FIRST MCKEE SHOULD BE GIVEN BACKGROUND
AND CURRENT STATUS OF THE NIGERIAN PROJECT AS CULLED FROM
EMBTLS CITED PAR 1 AND PREVIOUS.
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